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ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To provide a cosmetic containing an extract of *Aspalathus linearis* as the active component, capable of giving moisture to the skin or the hairs and exhibiting an effect for preventing senescence of the skin.

CONSTITUTION: A cosmetic containing, as the active component, an extract of *Aspalathus linearis* excellent in removal of active oxygen and moisture retention and exhibiting a high safety to the skin. This extract is obtained by extracting powdery *Aspalathus linearis* or its heated and fermented material with water, an organic solvent or a mixture solvent of water and an organic solvent and subsequently purifying it according to a known method. In the case this cosmetic is applied to the skin, it is effective for preventing senescence of the skin, e.g. wrinkle, pigmentation caused by ultraviolet rays. If applied to the hairs, it exhibits a humectant effect on the hairs without becoming sticky.

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